

REMARKS

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I. General

The issues outstanding in the instant application are as follows:

- Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over *Huang*, U.S. Pat. No. 6,318,763 (hereinafter *Huang*) in view of *Le Clair*, U.S. Pat. No. 2,479,499 (hereinafter *LeClair*); and

Applicant again respectfully traverses these rejections and requests reconsideration for the reasons presented below. Claims 1-5 are currently pending in this application, with claim 6 withdrawn from consideration.

II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over *Huang* in view of *LeClair*. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections for the following reasons.

A. The combination fails to teach all elements of the claims.

Each of independent claims 1, 2 and 4 recites “said torque communication portion of said collar staked in such a manner that said inner periphery extending through said torque communication portion communicates with said knurling in a relatively non-rotational manner” and “said ferrule support portion of said collar staked in such a manner that said inner periphery extending through said ferrule support portion engages said axial stop ring in an axial movement limiting manner.”

In the Amendment of June 11, 2008, Applicant pointed-out that cited Figure 4 of *Huang*, and the text of *Huang*, fails to show, teach or suggest the inner periphery of the locking sleeve contacting or otherwise engaging the indicated stop ring. The present Office Action responds to this reasoning by again citing Prior Art Figure 6 of *Huang* as teaching the above recited elements of the present claims. As noted in the prior papers, Applicant respectfully asserts that by indicating Figure 6 as being “Prior Art” *Huang* implicitly teaches away from use of *Huang*’s torque limiting feature, teeth 100 and notches 140, with any axial stop ring shown in Prior Art Figure 6. Regardless, *Huang* fails to teach or suggest the use of a an axial stop ring as arguably shown in Figure 6 together with and a torque limitation structure (such as teeth 100 and notches 140), whereas the present independent claims recite both a torque

communication portion communicating with knurling in a relatively non-rotational manner and a ferrule support portion of a collar engaging an axial stop ring. Further, by teaching supplantation of the structure shown in Prior Art Figure 6 with the structure shown in Figures 1-4, *Huang* teaches away from the use of an axial stop ring and torque limitation together.

Additionally, the Office Action states that Figure 6 of *Huang* shows “the torque communication portion of the collar staked in such a manner that the inner periphery extending through the torque communication portion communicates in a relatively non-rotational manner.” However, *Huang* clearly states in the paragraph beginning on line 13 of column 2, that the connecting pipe (stem) in Prior Art Figure 6 rotates relative to the collar.

For at least the above reasons *Huang* fails to teach or suggest “said torque communication portion of said collar staked in such a manner that said inner periphery extending through said torque communication portion communicates with said knurling in a relatively non-rotational manner” and “said ferrule support portion of said collar staked in such a manner that said inner periphery extending through said ferrule support portion engages said axial stop ring in an axial movement limiting manner,” as recited in independent claims 1, 2 and 4. *LeClair* is not relied on as teaching these elements. Thus, Applicant respectfully asserts that independent claims 1, 2 and 4 are patentable over the 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejections of record.

Claim 3 depends directly from independent claim 2 and claim 5 depends directly from independent claim 4. Thus, each of claims 3 and 5 inherit all elements of respective claims 2 and 4. Therefore, for at least the reasons advanced above in addressing the rejections of claims 2 and 4, each of claims 3 and 5 set forth features and elements not recited by the combination of *Huang* and *LeClair*. Hence, Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 3 and 5 are also patentable over the 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejections of record.

#### **B. The Office Action does not provide the requisite motivation.**

The Office Action admits that *Huang* does not teach “the collar support portion including knurling”. The Office Action attempts to cure this deficiency by introducing *LeClair*, which the Office Action alleges to teach a collar support portion including knurling (6). The motivation for making the modification was presented as follows:

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the collar support portion including knurling, to provide

improved couplings and improved methods for attaching couplings to hoses, as taught by *LeClair*.

It is well settled that the fact that references can be combined or modified is not sufficient to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, M.P.E.P. § 2143.01. In this case, the proposed replacement of the teeth of *Huang* with the knurling of *LeClair* would be a complete supplantation of the teachings of *Huang* and thus impermissibly change the principle of operation of *Huang*, see M.P.E.P. § 2143.01(VI).

*LeClair* teaches use of knurling (6) to engage crushed threads (14) whereby the engagement provides a lock to prevent the two ferrules from becoming unscrewed, see 3:13-25. However, replacing the splines of *Huang* with the knurling of *LeClair* will not realize the desired effect. Namely, the splines of *Huang* are intended to positively engage notches (140), see 4:13-1. Replacing the splines (100) will simply reduce or eliminate the ability of locking sleeve (14) from positively gripping pipe (10) due to the obvious mismatch between the notches (140) and the knurling (6) of *LeClair*, thereby changing the principle of operation of *Huang*.

Hence, there is no motivation to modify *Huang* using the teachings of *LeClair* in the manner proposed by the Office Action. Also, no “apparent reason to combine the known elements in the fashion claimed” has been presented as required by *KSR Int'l. Co. v. Teleflex, Inc.* (See M.P.E.P. §2143.) Resultantly, the rejection of claims 1-5 should be withdrawn for failure to provide the necessary motivation to combine *Huang* and *LeClair*.

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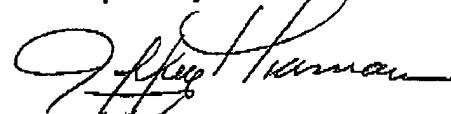
VI. Conclusion

For at least the reasons given above, Applicant submits that the pending claims distinguish over the prior art of record under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Hence, Applicant submits that this application should be found in condition for allowance. Applicant believes no further fee is due with this response. However, if any additional fee is due, please charge Deposit Account No. 07-0475, from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner call the below listed attorney if the Examiner believes that the attorney can helpful in resolving any remaining issues or can otherwise be helpful in expediting prosecution of the present application.

Dated: Nov. 2, 2010

Respectfully submitted,



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